

Reading Grade 4

Just think how hard life would be if a person could not read! Street signs, maps, warning labels, food packages, newspapers, emails, notes and letters, magazines, and books would all be impossible to understand. That's why it is so important to become a good reader. How do you do that? You become a good reader by practicing the reading skills you are learning in school, by reading often, and by thinking and talking about what you have read. If you think you are not a good reader yet, don't be discouraged! Keep working at it. Reading is a skill you will use all of your life. It opens the door to a world of new and exciting ideas. It helps us to learn. But most of all, reading is fun!

About the Test

On AIMS DPA, you will be given several passages to read, both fiction and nonfiction. You may also be given informational text to read – for example, labels or pages from manuals. The questions will assess your ability to understand, interpret, and analyze what you have read. There are approximately 84 multiple-choice Reading items. Thirty-nine items are AIMS questions, 15 items are *TerraNova* and AIMS DPA questions, and 30 items represent ten *TerraNova* reading questions and 20 *TerraNova* language arts questions. The test should be completed in approximately 1-2 hours. One sample passage is provided in this guide followed by a set of questions. Reading this passage and answering the questions may help you prepare for the test. An answer key for the reading questions is included in this guide.

Hints for Taking AIMS DPA Reading

- You will be asked to read different types of fiction and nonfiction, so adjust your reading to your purpose. Read each passage and the accompanying questions carefully.
- Think about each question before you respond.
- In the multiple-choice questions, choose the **best** response to the question.
- Manage your time so that you won't feel rushed answering questions that require more thought. **This is not a timed test**, but you do want to use your time well.
- Be sure to answer all items. Do not leave any blanks.

LEXILE: 600L
Special Sounds

It was late Saturday afternoon on an autumn day, and Willy was leaning against his favorite cottonwood tree at the park, working on his leather key chains. Willy heard a drum sound. He looked up and saw Dina across the park, sitting on a bench with her bongo drums. Dina was the new girl in Willy's class. Her family had moved to town from California.

"Hi, Dina!" Willy waved across the park. Dina gave a friendly nod and kept on drumming. Willy could tell that she really liked playing her bongo drums.

It was sunset when Willy finished the last three key chains. He put them into his cloth pouch and strolled over to Dina.

"Look, Dina," Willy showed her the key chains made from strings of brown leather.

Dina looked at the key chains. "Very nice," she said quietly and went back to drumming. Willy said goodbye and went home.

The next Saturday, Willy brought his grandpa to the park. Willy carried his key chains and Grandpa had his flute. Willy and his grandpa overheard the rhythmic sounds of drums, and there was Dina again, sitting on the same bench with her bongo drums. After finishing one keychain, Willy walked over to Dina.

"Here, Dina, this is a gift from me," Willy said as he handed her the key chain. Dina stopped drumming and didn't know what to say. She smiled and looked up in amazement. It was such an unexpected act of friendship. Dina didn't have any friends at her new school, so she was alone much of the time.

"Thank you, Willy," Dina spoke slowly and took the keychain from his hand.

"Do you always play those bongos alone?" Willy asked. Dina went back to drumming and nodded her head yes.

"Come and meet my grandpa!" Willy shouted over the bongo sounds. Dina stopped drumming and became silent. She took a thoughtful pause and then stood up to go with Willy. They walked across the park where his grandfather sat, playing his flute.

"Grandpa, meet my friend," Willy said, and Grandpa stopped playing.

"Show him how you play your drums, Dina," Willy said. Dina sat across from Willy's grandfather and began to play her bongo drums softly. Grandpa started to play his flute again. Willy thought that Dina's drum beats with Grandpa's melody made special sounds. He smiled.

1 Why did Willy bring Grandpa to the park?

- A Dina wanted to meet Willy.
- B Willy wanted Dina to play music with Grandpa.
- C Grandpa did not want to be alone.
- D Willy liked to hear bongo drum music.

2 What is the main problem in “Special Sounds”?

- A Willy likes to make key chains.
- B Dina does not have any friends.
- C Grandpa likes to play the flute.
- D Willy does not play an instrument.

3 Why did Willy want Dina to meet Grandpa?

- A He thought that they could make key chains together.
- B He thought that she was interested in cottonwood trees.
- C He thought she would enjoy playing music with a friend.
- D He thought that she wanted to learn how to play the flute.

4 What will **most** likely happen after the end of “Special Sounds”?

- A Willy will not have friends at school.
- B Dina will learn how to make key chains.
- C Grandpa will give concerts in the park.
- D Willy and Dina will become good friends.

5 In “Special Sounds,” what does the word unexpected mean?

- A nervous
- B sudden
- C not excited
- D not happy

6 Why was Dina amazed by Willy’s gift?

- A She didn’t have any friends.
- B She never met Willy.
- C She wanted to be alone.
- D She didn’t like key chains.

7 Read the sentence.

She took a thoughtful pause and then stood up to go with Willy.

Adding -ful to the word thought makes a new word that means —

- A much thought
- B without thought
- C thought again
- D thought before

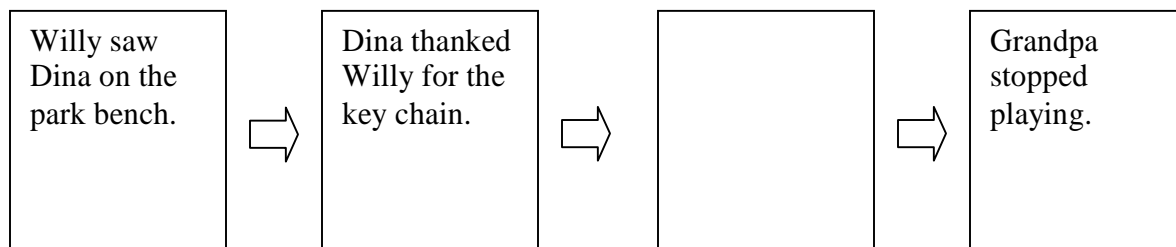
8 How was the second day in “Special Sounds” different from the first day?

- A Willy had key chains with him.
- B Dina played the bongo drums.
- C Dina and Willy were at the park.
- D Grandpa played the flute.

9 In “Special Sounds,” what does the word amazement mean?

- A sound
- B friendship
- C surprise
- D anger

10 Look at the graphic organizer from “Special Sounds.”



Which statement belongs in box 3?

- A Willy finished the key chains.
- B Dina played her drums with Grandpa.
- C Dina and Willy walked across the park.
- D Dina looked at the key chains.

- 11 What is the setting of “Special Sounds”?
- A the school
 - B the park
 - C Willy’s house
 - D Grandpa’s house
- 12 “Special Sounds” is an example of —
- A a short story
 - B a biography
 - C an autobiography
 - D a poem
- 13 When does “Special Sounds” begin?
- A Sunday evening in autumn
 - B Saturday afternoon in autumn
 - C Saturday morning in spring
 - D Thursday afternoon in summer
- 14 Who is the narrator of “Special Sounds”?
- A the family
 - B Willy
 - C the writer
 - D Dina
- 15 Which of these words **best** describes Dina?
- A mean
 - B talkative
 - C shy
 - D jealous
- 16 What is the moral of “Special Sounds”?
- A If you want to have friends, be friendly.
 - B If you want to hear music, go to the park.
 - C Take your grandpa to the park.
 - D Learn to play the bongos.
- 17 Who was Willy depending on to help Dina out of her shyness?
- A Dina’s family
 - B Grandpa
 - C friends
 - D classmates

Scoring Key

Reading Key

Question #1: B
Question #2: B
Question #3: C
Question #4: D
Question #5: B
Question #6: A
Question #7: A
Question #8: D
Question #9: C
Question #10: C
Question #11: B
Question #12: A
Question #13: B
Question #14: C
Question #15: C
Question #16: D
Question #17: D
Question #18: A
Question #19: B